

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

*1000*

Press  
Mis.

Dated

*19th August 1859.*

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
from 13th to 19th August 1859.*

No. 32. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue; dated 21st April 1857, No. 1239.

*In Consultation 12th December 1856.* Read letters from the Superintendent of Stamps dated 3rd November 1856, and 29th January 1857.  
*In Consultation 21st April 1857.*

(Here enter Nos. .)

With their letter dated 28th February 1856, No. 615, the Board submitted a letter from the Superintendent of Stamps, proposing that a Machine should be procured from England for printing a more elaborate Stamp than that now used on stamped paper, and that paper of superior quality should also be obtained.

*Extract Minutes Consultation 27th March 1856, R. D., No. 331.* 2. The Government remarked that the Superintendent had not made out a very strong case in favor of the measures he proposed and required information on 3 points.

- I. The cost of the new machinery &c.
  - II. The cost of the present Stamps.
  - III. The state of the Stamp Revenue.
3. This information the Board will now proceed to give.

*I. Cost of new Machinery, &c.*

*Dated 3d November in Consultation 12th December 1856.*

*To Superintendent of Stamps 12th December 1856, No. 4162.*

*From Superintendent of Stamps dated 29th Jan'y, in Cons. 21st April 1857.*

4. Mr. Lushington at first suggested that a Machine should be procured like one in use in Calcutta and an establishment entertained for working it at a net increase of expenditure of Rupees 358 per mensem, the cost of the Machine with apparatus being Rupees 16,329.

5. The Board observed that Mr. Lushington proposed to entertain an Engineer on Rupees 300 per mensem, and suggested that he should communicate with the Mint Master and ascertain whether a more economical arrangement could not be effected.

6. The result of this reference has been that all the Machinery required can be procured or made in Madras at a cost of Rupees 2,500, Colonel F. Cotton, has made a Press for printing in 2 colors, and three of these Presses costing only Rupees 300 will probably suffice to print 3,000 Stamps, the average daily demand.

7. The patterns forwarded herewith were cut with a lathe belonging to Mr. Rohde, and are considered by the Board to be a great improvement on the Stamps in use and sufficient for all practical purposes, if the value is given in the vernaculars as well as English. The Machine however is capable of producing patterns of a more complicated design than those submitted and may be purchased for Rupees 1,200, which Colonel Cotton states is less than its original cost by 700 Rupees, and Rupees 500 below its present value. An eccentric die cutter to fit it could be procured from England for about Rupees 200, and other apparatus not particularized is set down at Rupees 800. Thus all the Machinery required can be procured for Rupees 2,500.

8. Colonel Cotton considers that the whole operation of cutting the dies and Stamping the paper might with propriety be conducted at the Mint, and in this view the Board fully concur. Additional accommodation will however be required for the establishment and is estimated to cost about Rupees 3,000.

9. The preliminary outlay in Machinery and buildings would thus be Rupees 5,500.

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10. To work the Press and cut new dies an Establishment is proposed by Colonel Cotton, costing Rupees 281 per mensem. The list includes a die Setter who will be able to repair the apparatus when necessary, a Turner to cut new Dies, an Engraver to letter and number them, and a Superintendent. The first three of these workmen would also be of service in the Mint generally.

11. The retention of this establishment would of course enable the Superintendent to dispense with some of the servants employed in the Stamp Department of his office. The cost of the existing\* establishment is given at Rupees 123-8, but the Superintendent states that he will require the services of four men on 7 Rupees each for various purposes. The net saving in his office will therefore be only Rupees 95-8, leaving Rupees 185-8 monthly to be met from other sources as will be explained in subsequent paras.

12. The Superintendent states that an Establishment costing Rupees 98-12 is also retained at the Treasury for counter stamping the paper &c., This counter stamp, he thinks, may be dispensed with when the new stamp is introduced, and the paper may be issued direct to his office by the Mint Master who would have to furnish the usual annual statement. The Board see no objection to this arrangement, but it will render an alteration of Section IV. Regulation XIII. of 1816 necessary. By abolishing this Establishment, the net cost of that newly to be retained will be still further reduced to Rupees 86-12 monthly.

13. The cost of making the present stamps is Rupees 123-8 monthly (as already explained) for the Establishment in the Superintendent's office, and 98-12 for that in the Treasury, while the value of the paper used is given at 2,778-8-8. It is not explained, whether this is the actual charge for any particular year or the average expense.

14. The same quantity of the new paper which the Superintendent proposes to procure from England would cost Rupees 5,266-13-1, or Rupees 2,488 more than the kind now in use.

15. To meet this new expenditure the Superintendent, in addition to the reductions already explained, suggests an alteration in the mode of remunerating stamp vendors. The present practice varies greatly in different Districts; but the Stamp Darogahs at the Huzzoor Cutcherries absorb more than a moiety of the entire commission granted on the sale of stamps. Thus in Fusly 1265 the aggregate commission amounted to Rupees 31,995, of which the Huzzoor Stamp Darogahs received Rupees 16,312, and the far more numerous talook vendors only 15,682.

16. Mr. Lushington proposes to introduce an uniform system, to give the Darogahs (as in Bellary and Tinnevelly) a fixed salary in proportion to their work and responsibility, to provide each of those in the provinces (Kurnool excepted) with a Goomastah, and to pay the talook vendors by a fixed per centage.

17. The Board approve of this plan, and recommend its adoption, with some modifications. The salaries of the Darogahs will range from Rupees 100 monthly in Malabar to 10 in Kurnool. At present the former gets only 40 Rupees, and the latter about 4 Rupees more than the present arrangement will give him. In some cases, on the other hand, the Darogahs will hereafter receive much less than they now do.

18. The Board think it would be better generally to leave it to the Darogahs to retain their own Goomastahs. The servants in the Stamp Department do not receive pensions, and a liberal scale of pay is therefore required. Moreover, so long as their duty is properly done, which can always be ensured by the Collector, it is immaterial to Government whether the Darogah does it with the aid of relative, or with that of a person appointed by the Collector. The Board would therefore include the allowance for a writer in the Darogah's pay and hold the latter responsible for the due performance of his duty, giving the Collector power to insist on a Goomastah or assistant being employed when circumstances render such a course necessary. The salary would then generally suffice to secure the undivided services of a competent person. At the same

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time the Board would make a slight change in the higher salaries, which are more than the pay now attached to many more important and onerous situations. The Board think 90 Rupees monthly ample in Malabar, and would fix the rates in Tanjore, Canara and Madura at Rupees 80, 75 and 70, respectively; these sums being in their opinion sufficient for the duties of the office. The various salaries would then be as follows.

|                 |                 |                   |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Kurnool.....10  | Ganjam.....     | Rajahmundry.....  | Cuddapah... 50  |
| Guntoor..... 25 | Vizagapatam.... | Bellary.....      | Madura..... 70  |
| Madras.....30   | Bunder.....     | North Arcot.....  | Canara..... 75  |
|                 | Nellore.....    | South Arcot.....  | Tanjore..... 80 |
|                 | Chingleput..... | Salem.....        | Malabar..... 90 |
|                 |                 | Trichinopoly..... |                 |
|                 |                 | Tinnevelly.....   |                 |
|                 |                 | Coimbatore.....   |                 |

19. As regards the union of the office with that of Cash-keeper or any other, the Board think it undesirable to lay down any fixed rule. They would leave each Collector to select a suitable person for the office, but where the salary amounts to 40 Rupees monthly or exceeds that sum as it will do in all but 3 cases, it should be a rule that the person selected should not be employed on the Collector's fixed establishment. For 40 Rupees monthly the Collector will rarely have difficulty in finding a person out of his office competent to perform the work and it may be assumed that his duties as Darogah would be more than he could perform merely in his leisure time, if he held any other situation in the Huzzoor Cutcherry. The Darogahs would of course be required to give security, the stamps would be kept in the Collector's office and they would there transact business.

20. In the talooks the Board would also leave it to the Collector to select the person to perform the duty of Vendor.

21. The Superintendent proposes to give each Talook Vendor a commission of 2 per cent. on his sales; but considering that the bulk of stamps sold are those of small value, the Board doubt whether this rate of remuneration would secure the services of efficient and trustworthy people. They would propose therefore to raise the rate to 3 per cent. which would make the disbursements Rupees 15,751, instead of Rupees 10,501 as proposed by the Superintendent.

22. The entire payments in Fusly 1265 on this modified scale and as actually made are shown below.

|                |     | New scale. |        | Old scale. |     |
|----------------|-----|------------|--------|------------|-----|
|                |     | Rs.        | Rs.    | Rs.        | Rs. |
| Darogah        | ... | 11,940     | 16,312 | 31,995.    |     |
| Talook Vendors | ... | 15,751     | 15,682 | 27,691.    |     |
|                |     | 27,691     | 31,995 | 4,304.     |     |

The net saving would thus have been Rupees 4,304 available to meet the expenses of the new scheme. Five per cent. on the sales of Fusly 1265, viz. Rupees 7,15,469 would give Rupees 35,700 as commission.

23. The calculation will therefore be as follows.

|                                           |     | Per annum. |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|------------|
|                                           |     | Rs.        |
| Additional expenditure for improved paper | ... | 2,488      |
| New Establishment                         | ... | 3,372      |
|                                           |     | 5,860      |
| Deduct.                                   |     |            |
| Saving in Superintendent's office         | ... | 1,146      |
| Do. in Commission                         | ... | 4,304      |
| In Treasury                               | ... | 1,185      |
|                                           |     | 6,635      |
|                                           |     | 775        |

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24. The whole of the new arrangements might therefore be carried out without additional expense. It must however be remembered that the sales in Fusly 1265 were very large. A larger supply of paper would also be required in substitution of Cadjans, and the Mint Master may require a Goomastah to keep the accounts and furnish the return now received from the Sub Treasurer.

25. The actual financial results cannot therefore be stated with precision, still the Board think the probability of an excess of expenditure very slight and more than counterbalanced by the advantages of the new plan.

26. The enclosure A. in the Superintendent's letter of the 3rd November 1856 furnishes the information required by Government regarding the Stamp Revenue. It will be seen that there has been a rapid and marked rise from Fusly 1255 when the Revenue was only 2,35,661 to Fusly 1265 when it amounted to Rupees 7,15,469.

27. Having regard to the large Revenue derived from this source, the Board think the proposed improvement well worthy of consideration. The present Stamps can undoubtedly be imitated without difficulty, and forgeries have occurred in Bengal. It would be prudent to anticipate similar attempts in this Presidency, especially when the expense involved is so small. An outlay so far as can be estimated of only Rupees 5,500 for Machinery and buildings being all that is required.

28. The Board also approve of the substitution, as in Calcutta, of English paper\* for that now in use, which is extremely bad and not always procured easily. If the new kind of paper prepared by Messrs. Dela Rue and Co. and referred to in the Board's letter dated 31st March 1857 be found to answer, a certain number of Stamps might be prepared on it and sold at slightly enhanced rates for documents of importance.

29. The Board resolve on the above grounds to support the Superintendent's proposition as now modified by them. The Board deem it unnecessary to dwell on the importance of the matter to the public.

30. The substitution of paper for Cadjan stamps appears to the Board an improvement; but considering the difficulty experienced in getting the Village Curruks to write on paper, it would be well not to make the change too suddenly; the stock on hand is probably sufficient to enable the Superintendent to introduce it gradually, an alteration of Regulation XIII. of 1816 will also be requisite.

31. It now only remains for the Board to notice the Superintendent's application for an increase of Establishment and an augmentation of the salaries of some of the servants now in his office.

32. The work devolving on the Superintendent's Establishment has certainly largely increased of late years. Two additional translators were sanctioned in 1853, and the office now consists of a manager, 3 accountants, 1 Record keeper, 3 Translators, 4 writers, a Native Registrar and 7 Conicopillays, besides inferior servants. Mr. Lushington now states that he requires an additional accountant, translator and Record keeper.

33. The Revenue in Fusly 1263 or that succeeding the increase of establishment was Rupees 6,02,854 and the number of certificates issued was 16,040. In Fusly 1265 the Revenue rose to Rs. 7,15,469, and the certificates increased to Rs. 20,920. The present establishment costs Rupees 753 monthly, and addition of the 3 individuals sought will raise the charge to Rupees 848 or Rupees 10,176 annually, which last sum is only  $1\frac{1}{8}$  per cent on the revenue of Fusly 1265.

34. The Board consider the necessity of an addition to the establishment to be sufficiently apparent and recommend that application may be made to the Supreme Government for permission to entertain an additional Accountant on Rupees 50, a Translator on Rupees 25, and an assistant Record keeper on Rupees 20, or in all three individuals on an aggregate salary of Rupees 95 monthly.

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35. As regards the increase proposed to the salaries of the Manager, Head Accountant and Record keeper, the Board are not satisfied that sufficient grounds have been shown. The Board's recommendation, as above given, is based on the ground that the work of the Department has increased and more men are required to do it. The increase of salary however is mainly founded on the circumstance that the new postage system has greatly augmented the responsibility and labor of the three principal servants. The Board must admit that the claim of these servants is very strong indeed, but they consider that the increased charge should be incurred from the Funds of the Post office and not from those of the Stamp Department.

36. Mr. Lushington states that 2,241 letters were received and despatched in that Department, and that the manager is jointly responsible with him for the safe custody of Postage Labels exceeding in value three lacs of Rupees. The Board do not doubt that the claims of the Head servants to some remuneration for this extra labor and responsibility will be readily admitted, but the charge should in their view be debited to the Postal Department, much of the work of which will still be done at the expense of the Stamp Department. The Board are in consequence unable to support this part of Mr. Lushington's recommendation.

37. Resolved that copy of these Proceedings be laid before Government for their consideration and orders.

*ORDER THEREON, 17th August 1859, No. 1100.*

No. 33.

In this paper the Board of Revenue report on some suggestions of the late Superintendent of Stamps designed for the improvement of that department.

2. The first subject (paras. 3 to 12) is the adoption of bi-color stamps, and improved machinery and paper; the subject of stamps and stamp duties being now before the Legislative Council of India, it is needless to pursue that matter farther here.

3. The next subject (paras. 13 to 25) that of the mode of remunerating the stamp servants in the interior, has been disposed of in connection with other papers. The remark on the state of the Stamp revenue in connection with the proposed changes (paras. 26 to 30) calls for no order at present.

4. With respect to the third (paras. 31 to 36) proposition, viz. that for augmenting the establishment at the Presidency Stamp office, the Governor in Council sees no necessity for passing orders on it at the present time. He agrees with the Board that any increase rendered necessary by the additional responsibility and labor caused by the custody and issue of the postage labels should be borne by the Post Office revenue.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,  
Secretary to Government.

Revenue Board Office,  
 Fort St. George,  
 12<sup>th</sup> December, 1856.

N<sup>o</sup> 4162

Now

J. C. Sim Esq.

Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue

To

T. Sushington Esq.

Superintendent of Stamps

Sir,

Fort St. George

With reference to your letter dated  
 3<sup>d</sup> November 1856, the Board desire me to  
 request that you will ascertain from  
 the Mint Master, whether the stamping  
 machine which you propose procuring  
 could not be worked in his Office - so as  
 to save the heavy outlay required for an Engineer's  
 salary. The Board conclude that one or more  
 persons fully competent to manage such  
 a machine must already be employed  
 in that Department, and one of these might  
 superintend the working of the stamping  
 instrument, receiving of course an extra  
 allowance for the additional duty. The  
 stamping

Stamping plates would remain in your  
Custody or in that of the Print Master  
and a sufficient Establishment would be  
maintained for working the Machine at  
the expense of the Stamp Revenue. The  
Board would also wish to have your opinion  
on the question (formerly discussed) <sup>to be</sup>  
of having the Stamps struck at Calcutta <sup>&c.</sup>  
or even in England where it is proposed  
that the paper shall be procured hereafter.

2. The Board remark that an improved  
Stamp will be a security to Government rather  
than the people, for number of unused Stamps  
in Circulation is unknown and they can  
consequently be procured for any purpose.

3. With regard to the proposed re-  
muneration for Salvage Vendors, the Board  
wish to know whether you have consulted  
the Collectors on the subject, as there may  
be some difficulty in inducing respectable  
persons to undertake the trouble and responsibility  
on such terms.

4. The Board would also wish  
to know whether you contemplate the  
the introduction of Stamps of smaller  
value

5-0  
value than 4 Annas, and whether you  
propose any change as to Stamped Currencies.

Revenue Board Office,  
Fort St. George,  
12<sup>th</sup> December 1856.

I have the honor to be  
Yours faithfully  
J. C. Shiu  
Acting Secretary

/ True Copy /

J. C. Shiu  
Acting Secretary

For  
Mr. Shiu

No 1100

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 17<sup>th</sup> August 1859.

Read the following

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Reporting on the measures proposed by the Superintendent of Stamps in connection with the introduction of a more elaborate stamp and improved paper and in the mode of providing the additional expenditure consequent thereon and recommending that applications be made to the Supreme Govt for the authorization of certain additional servants required owing to the increase of business in the Superintendent's Office.

Here enter 21<sup>st</sup> April 1859 No 1239

Handwritten signature/initials

In this paper the Board of Revenue report on some suggestions of the late Superintendent of Stamps designed for the improvement of that Department. The first subject (Paras 1 to 12)

In an Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue to the Revenue Secretary, Madras dated 21<sup>st</sup> April 1859.

CE 425/57

Revenue Secretary to the Govt. Madras 21<sup>st</sup> April 1859.

Enclosed, informing you of the subject of forwarding the stamping instructions.

17 Aug 1859

1100

32933

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and improved machinery and  
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4 - With respect  
to the third (Paras 31 to 36)  
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at the Presidency Stamp  
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J. A.

Copies

To  
The Board of Revenue. Dated 18<sup>th</sup>

Revenue 1859 Department.  
Pro: of Govt. 19<sup>th</sup> August.

No 1100.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.  
Dy 17<sup>th</sup> August 1859.

Passing orders on the Board's  
Report on some suggestions of  
the late Supdt. of Stamps for  
the improvement of that Departt.

No 32432.